

Biosciences Career Pathway

MISSOURI ECONOMIC RESEARCH & INFORMATION CENTER
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
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What are Career Pathways?

Career Pathways are groups of occupations within a career field. Occupations within a pathway share common skills, knowledge, and interests. The pathways use industry-recognized credentials and are examples of how different levels of training or education can help provide opportunities for career advancement.

Missouri Numbers:



3,700 Employers



49,294 Workers



\$84,367 Average Wage

Why Have a Career in Biosciences?

Developments in biotechnology rapidly change the way we live, work, and learn. Biosciences represents 2 percent of total private sector employment, employing over 49,000 workers in 3,700 businesses in 2024. Employment has been growing at an average of 2.2 percent per year from 2019 to 2024. Missouri has high employment concentrations in Biosciences, particularly in *Animal Food Manufacturing*, *Hog & Pig Farming*, and *Agricultural Chemical Manufacturing*. Biosciences industry wages averaged \$84,367 in 2024, higher than the state average of \$64,752 for private industries.

From research to production, there are a variety of innovative and rewarding careers in the Biosciences fields of Production, Research & Development, and Animal Sciences.

Know the Basics

The Biosciences industry deals with how living things work and interact with each other, and teaches how to ask questions, make observations, and solve problems. Durable, or soft, skills, such as interpersonal skills, professionalism, and dependability, are important in all industries and occupations, including Biosciences. The Biosciences industry deals heavily with research and production, so knowledge of mathematics and scientific principles is a must. Safety and quality control are critical in this industry, so attention to detail and continuous learning are necessary.

Skills needed for Success:

The Biosciences industry has industry-wide technical competencies that represent the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in this industry. Research and development; manufacturing process design and development; knowledge of medical devices, drugs, and pharmaceuticals; as well as knowledge of agricultural feedstock and chemicals are some of the skills that may be needed for success.

Who's Hiring in Missouri?

Johnson & Johnson
Bayer Corporation
Merck & Company
Land O'Lakes
Eurofins



Production

Research & Development

Animal Sciences

Now

Short-Term On-the-Job Training

Helpers-Production Workers
Entry: \$35,910 Average: \$41,840

**Weighers, Measurers, Checkers,
& Samplers, Recordkeeping**
Entry: \$38,480 Average: \$44,940

**Veterinary Assistants & Laboratory
Animal Caretakers**
Entry: \$30,690 Average: \$34,890

Certificates: Forklift Operator

Degrees: Chemistry
Certificates: American Society for
Quality (ASQ); Certified Quality
Auditor

Certificates: Certified Manager of
Animal Resources

Next

Certificate, Associate Degree, Apprenticeship, Moderate- to Long-Term On-the-Job Training

**First-Line Supervisor of
Production Workers**
Entry: \$54,210 Average: \$72,460

Industrial Machinery Mechanics
Entry: \$48,550 Average: \$60,570

**Chemical Equipment Operators
& Tenders**
Entry: \$45,750 Average: \$54,270

Degrees: Industrial Mechanics
and Maintenance
Certificates: Commercial
Driver's License; Chemical
Operator

Chemical Technicians
Entry: \$48,590 Average: \$65,390

Agricultural Technicians
Entry: \$31,880 Average: \$49,500

**Inspectors, Testers, Sorters,
Samplers, & Weighers**
Entry: \$43,870 Average: \$55,630

Degrees: Chemistry
Certificates: American Society
for Quality (ASQ); Certified
Quality Auditor

**Veterinary Technologists &
Technicians**
Entry: \$36,400 Average: \$40,640

Certificates: Veterinary
Technician/Technologist;
Laboratory Animal Technician

Later

Bachelor's Degree or Advanced Degree

Industrial Production Managers
Entry: \$82,340 Average: \$118,370

Chemists
Entry: \$61,840 Average: \$94,070

Veterinarians
Entry: \$95,660 Average: \$128,310

Chemical Engineers
Entry: \$85,970 Average: \$115,630

Medical Scientists
Entry: \$76,350 Average: \$107,020

Degrees: Engineering; Business
Administration & Management

Degrees: Chemistry; Clinical
Laboratory Science/Technologist;
Chemical Engineering

Degrees: Animal Sciences;
Horticultural Operations;
Veterinary Medicine

Sources:

Lightcast™

Employment and Training Administration, Competency Model Clearinghouse

2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top employers data is based on 2025 online job ads



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